

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
TO THE
THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
FOR THE
Year ending December 31st, 1919.

J. BELL, PRINTER, THIRSK.

MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report for the year 1919. I am rather handicapped this year by not having a full knowledge of the year's work, as I did not return to my duties until the beginning of June and I have no definite record of much of the work that must have been done in the earlier part of the year especially in connection with the epidemic of influenza.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

| | |
|--|---------------|
| Area of the District (land and inland water) ... | 64,024 acres. |
| Population—Census 1911 | 12,792 |
| Population—estimated to middle of 1919 ... | 12,758 |
| Number of Townships | 49 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 2,961 |
| Average number of persons per house ... | 4'32 |

HOSPITALS FOR THE AREA.

LAMBERT MEMORIAL HOSPITAL. Maintained by endowment and public subscription. Nine beds.

THE UNION HOSPITAL.

THE ISOLATION HOSPITAL. Eight beds.

DISTRICT NURSES—2.

One of these for the Thirsk area does duty for Thirsk, Carlton Miniott and South Kilvington, and also undertakes work under Health Visiting and School Nursing. She is provided by the North Riding Nursing Association to which Thirsk is affiliated. The other nurse does duty for Sowerby and is district nurse in that area.

CHIEF OCCUPATIONS.

Agriculture, Foundry Work and Artisan. There are no trades or occupations in the area which have any directly pernicious influence on the health of the district.

The tables appended shew the total number of births and deaths attributable to the district, one of these being supplied by the Registrar-General, the other being compiled from figures by locally supplied statistics.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

1. WATER. The water supplies have been fully described in previous reports and are practically the same. No further provision for water supplies to villages has been made, but in the case of Topcliffe and Dalton a scheme is under consideration. The pipe supplies were constant, but in some cases where the supply is from wells a shortage was found.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS. These also remain practically as previously reported on. The becks at Pickhill, Kilburn and Sutton receive the sewage directly without interception tanks.

3. DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. The sewerage generally throughout the district is treated with septic tanks. At Thornton-le-Moor there is a sewage farm which is under the supervision of the Sanitary Surveyor.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION. In Thirsk and Sowerby closet accommodation is by water closets, pan closets and privy ashpits. In the outlying districts chiefly by privy ashpits. No great alteration has been made.

5. SCAVENGING. In Thirsk and Sowerby this is done by the Council and in the other parts of the district by the tenants, and is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector, who finds this is as efficient and satisfactory as the circumstances will allow.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF DISTRICT. Visits have been made to different parts of the district in connection with the housing defects in company with the Sanitary Inspector, and where defects have been found letters or informal notices have been sent and

mostly complied with. Visits in connection with infectious diseases and subsequent disinfection have been done by the Sanitary Inspector and myself.

7. PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS. Factories and Workshops. Systematically inspected and are satisfactory. In one case a new workshop was provided and in another an additional W.C. was built.

Slaughter Houses. There are ten of these regularly inspected and are satisfactory. Lime washing carried out where necessary.

Bake Houses. As in previous years. All clean and satisfactory.

Cellar Dwellings. None.

Lodging Houses. None.

Cow Byres. Regularly inspected.

SCHOOLS.

The general hygienic conditions of the schools are on the whole satisfactory and the health of the school children good. The following school closure is the only one I have to go by, as I have not a record before the 1st June: Sandhutton School. 3rd November, 1919, nine weeks (three periods of three weeks each) scarlet fever.

FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY. The milk supplies are from the township and surrounding districts and are satisfactory. No complaints have been received. The cow sheds are inspected regularly by the Sanitary Inspector and advice given as to general cleanliness.

MILK (MOTHER AND CHILDREN'S) ORDER, 1918. The medical practitioners in the district were circularised and reported that in no single instance had they come across a case where there was difficulty in obtaining milk, and in consequence of this no action has been taken under this Order.

OTHER FOODS. No complaints have been received and no suspected carcasses have been found on visits of inspection to the slaughter houses. No carcasses or parts thereof have been condemned for tuberculosis.

Action under Sale of Food and Drugs Act. Nil.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

An Isolation Hospital is provided for the treatment of infectious disease with accommodation for eight beds. Unfortunately only one type of disease can be treated at one time, but arrangements are being made for the conversion of a building on the site, originally built as a nurses' dormitory during the typhoid epidemic of 1912, into a small isolation block with two wards of three beds each. The arrangement with the Purey Cust Nursing Home at York for the provision of nurses still continues and works satisfactorily.

Diphtheria antitoxin is supplied by the Council and disinfection is personally undertaken by the Sanitary Inspector.

Bacteriological aids to diagnosis are largely taken advantage of, especially with regard to diphtheria and tuberculosis. This is done by the Clinical Research Association.

As will be seen from the Table of Causes of Death 13 deaths were due to influenza, one to measles and two to diphtheria. Appended is the Table shewing incidence of infectious disease in the various quarters of the year.

DIPHTHERIA. The four cases notified in the third quarter of the year were widely distributed. The disease did not become epidemic.

SCARLET FEVER. Of the 30 cases notified in the third and fourth quarters of the year most occurred in the Sandhutton area, where the disease was epidemic. This epidemic formed the subject of a special report already presented to you.

The other cases of infectious disease do not require any special comment.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER TUBERCULOSIS.

Five cases have been notified during the year, three of these received sanatorium treatment.

SMALL POX. No case has been notified and no provision at present exists for treatment. In the event of a case the Isolation Hospital would have to be emptied and the case accommodated there.

No case of puerperal fever or ophthalmia neonatorum has been notified.

MALARIAL FEVER. A death from cerebral malaria contracted abroad was at the request of the National Ministry of Health specially reported on.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION OF THE DISTRICT.

STAFF. Clerk, Medical Officer of Health, Sanitary Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

With regard to the Sanitary Inspector, who resumed his duties about the beginning of the year after demobilisation, he reports to me that much of his time at the beginning was spent in getting into touch, after about four years absence, with the various duties that fall to his lot.

Hospital accommodation has already been mentioned in a previous part of this report.

HOUSING.

The shortage of housing accommodation in this district is not so acute as in the larger centres. There are very few houses standing empty, but although the shortage is not serious, it nevertheless handicaps the temporary closing of many houses which are below the standard, but with structural alterations could be brought up to it. This, of course, will be remedied in the future when building under the new Housing Act is proceeded with. Building schemes are on foot for most of the districts which will supply such need as has been determined by careful survey. There are no serious cases of overcrowding except at Topcliffe, which I hope will shortly be remedied.

One complaint by a householder was made as to the unfitness of his house for human habitation. This complaint was found to be without foundation. No closing orders have been made. Three demolition orders were made and are at present in operation.

In conclusion, I should like to say that this report is not so comprehensive as I should have liked, but much of the work now being done was commenced before my return and I have found it difficult to get into touch with the new Orders, etc.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. G. MACARTHUR,

30th March, 1920.

M.O.H.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES TABLE, 1919.

| DISEASE. | Total. | Quarter ending 31 March. | Quarter ending 30 June. | Quarter ending 30 Sept. | Quarter ending 31 Dec. |
|------------------|--------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Diphtheria ... | 11 | 6 | 1 | 4 | — |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Measles ... | 20 | 2 | 2 | 7 | 9 |
| Scarlet Fever... | 32 | — | 2 | 5 | 25 |
| Who'ping Cough | 6 | 6 | — | — | — |

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1919.

| CAUSES OF DEATH— Civilians only. | MALES. | | | FEMALES. | | |
|---|---------------|--------------------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|--------|
| | No. | Transferable Deaths. | Total. | No. | Transferable Deaths. | Total. |
| ALL CAUSES. | 114 | 10 Inward 1 Outward | 123 | 82 | 6 Inward. | 88 |
| Measles | — | — | — | — | 1 Inward | 1 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | 1 | 1 Inward | 2 |
| Influenza | 5 | — | 5 | 8 | — | 8 |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis ... | 6 | — | 6 | 4 | — | 4 |
| Tuberculous Meningitis ... | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Other Tuberculous Diseases | 3 | — | 3 | 1 | 1 Inward | 2 |
| Cancer | 2 | { 1 Inward 1 Outw'd } | 2 | 3 | 1 Inward | 4 |
| Organic Heart Disease ... | 14 | 1 Inward | 15 | 13 | 1 Inward | 14 |
| Bronchitis | 10 | — | 10 | 7 | — | 7 |
| Pneumonia (all forms) ... | 6 | — | 6 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Appendicitis | — | — | — | — | 1 Inward | 1 |
| Cirrhosis of Liver | 2 | — | 2 | — | — | — |
| Nephritis & Bright's Disease | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Congenital Debility. &c. ... | 4 | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Violence, apart from Suicide | 4 | — | 4 | — | — | — |
| Suicide | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Broncho Pneumonia ... | 2 | — | 2 | 2 | — | 2 |
| Other defined Diseases ... | 54 | 8 Inward | 62 | 36 | — | 36 |
| Total of all attributable to District 211. | | | | | | |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age | Males. 14 | | Females. 4 | | Total. 18 | |
| Total Births. 192 | Males. 101 | | Females. 91 | | | |

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population 17·22
 Death Rate from Registrar-General's figures 16·98
 Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population 15·04
 Birth Rate from Registrar-General's figures 15·83
 Death Rate of Children under 1 year per 1,000 net Births ... 93·75

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT.

REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S RETURN OF CAUSES OF DEATH, 1919.

| CAUSES OF DEATH—CIVILIANS ONLY. | | | | | | Males. | Female. |
|--|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|---------|
| ALL CAUSES. | | | | | | 119 | 89 |
| 1 | Enteric Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 2 | Small Pox | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 3 | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 4 | Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 5 | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 6 | Diphtheria and Croup | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 2 |
| 7 | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 9 |
| 8 | Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 9 | Pulmonary Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 5 |
| 10 | Tuberculous Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| 11 | Other Tuberculous Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 2 |
| 12 | Cancer—Malignant Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 4 |
| 13 | Rheumatic Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 14 | Meningitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 15 | Organic Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 15 |
| 16 | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 11 |
| 17 | Pneumonia (all forms) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 4 |
| 18 | Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| 19 | Diarrhoea, &c. (under 2 years) | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 20 | Appendicitis and Typhlitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 21 | Cirrhosis of Liver | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | — |
| 22 | Nephritis and Bright's Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — |
| 23 | Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| 24 | Parturition, apart from Puerperal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 25 | Congenital Debility, &c. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 4 |
| 26 | Violence, apart from Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — |
| 27 | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | 1 |
| 28 | Other Defined Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 55 | 29 |
| 29 | Causes ill-defined or unknown | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age... Total | | | | | | 14 | 4 |
| Illegitimate | | | | | | 5 | 1 |
| Total Births } Males, 104 Legitimate | | | | | | 94 | 85 |
| Females, 98 Illegitimate | | | | | | 10 | 13 |

Population for Birth Rate ... 12,758

Population for Death Rate ... 12,248

SANITARY STATISTICS OF THINGOE RURAL DISTRICT FOR THE YEAR 1919.

